

# 2013 Summary Report



**Prepared by:**  
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**Jacksonville, FL**  
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# What is Garbage on the Green?



Garbage on the Green is a waste auditing program developed by the UNF Environmental Center in 2007, with support from Physical Facilities. The audit was designed to gain a better understanding of the university's solid waste stream and to improve the overall diversion rate. The program corresponds with UNF's plan to reduce its overall environmental footprint.





# Volunteers

Through the help of student volunteers, waste is collected from two academic/administration areas, one residence hall, and two common dining locations. Once the trash has been collected, it is then sorted into categories such as plastics, food packaging, and mixed paper. After each category is weighed, we are able to determine how much and what kind of waste the university has the most of.



## By the Numbers

**130** UNF students volunteered at GoG

Garbage was sorted into **12** categories

There were **8** paid student audit supervisors

Over **800** lbs. of waste was sorted



# Importance

Florida has set a goal to achieve a 75% recycling rate by 2020. The Environmental Center continues to grow each year and brings focus to our society's need to use natural resources more wisely. Garbage on the Green shows students the vital connection between material use, energy consumption, and its impact on the environment and is important towards our goal of graduating a generation of environmentally literate society leaders.



To help meet Florida's goal, the Environmental Center aims to have **75 %**  
of UNF campus waste recycled by **2020**





# Impact on Campus



The seventh annual Garbage on the Green event took place on October 23, 2013. There were a total of 130 volunteers who helped sort over 800 pounds of waste. Eight students were paid and trained by the Environmental Center to be audit supervisors who helped volunteers correctly sort and record the weight of waste. The sorting process serves as an educational opportunity to teach the UNF community about recycling, litter prevention, and waste reduction.





# Community Exhibitors

In addition to the waste audit, the Environmental Center partnered with 18 community exhibitors to put together a local market event. Exhibitors included Down to Earth Farm, Golden Chew, UNF's Ogier Gardens, and more. Exhibitors were encouraged to car-pool and limit the use of flyers in order to keep it a low-waste event. A focus was also placed on environmental education or awareness for each exhibition.





## Collection



1.

## Procedure

The most important aspect of Garbage on the Green is the procedure. This is when student volunteers are given specific tasks to be completed in order to produce results efficiently and effectively.

## Measuring



5.



2.

## Cleanup

Waste accumulates 24 hours before the audit begins.

24



3.



## Training



4.

## Sorting

A sample representation of 5 collection sites were chosen for the audit.

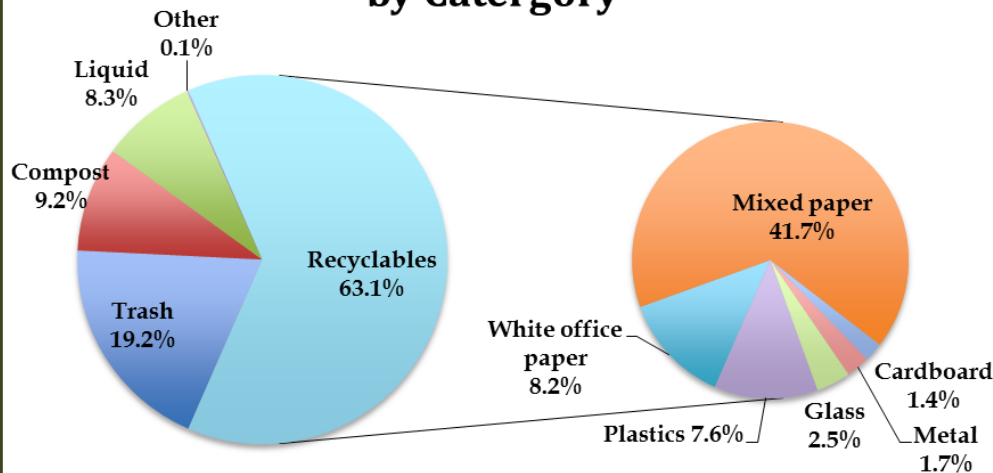
5

# Results

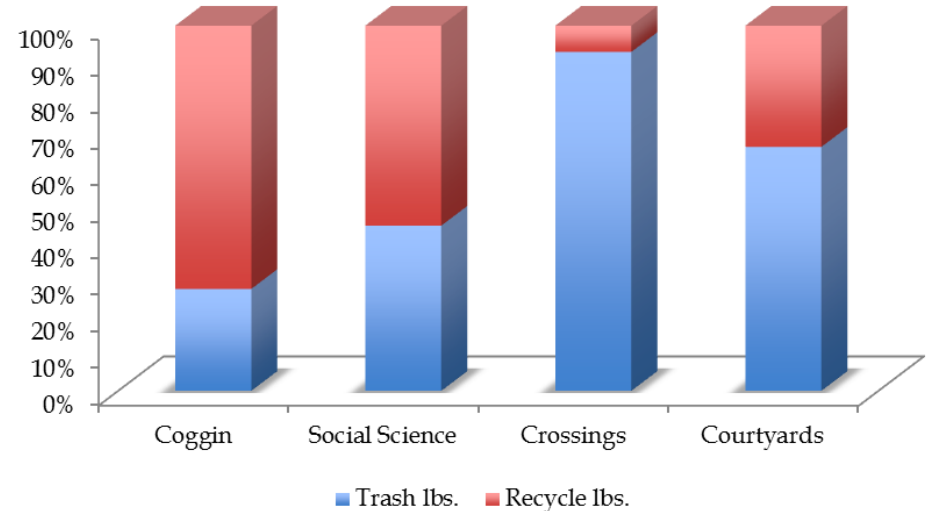
After the audit is completed, the results help the Environmental Center to determine the best way to increase recycling practices on campus and also how to improve the audit process for the future. The following were some of the most significant findings of this year's audit:

- **63%** of all materials audited were recycled—close to FL's **75%** recycling goal

**Distribution of Waste by Category**



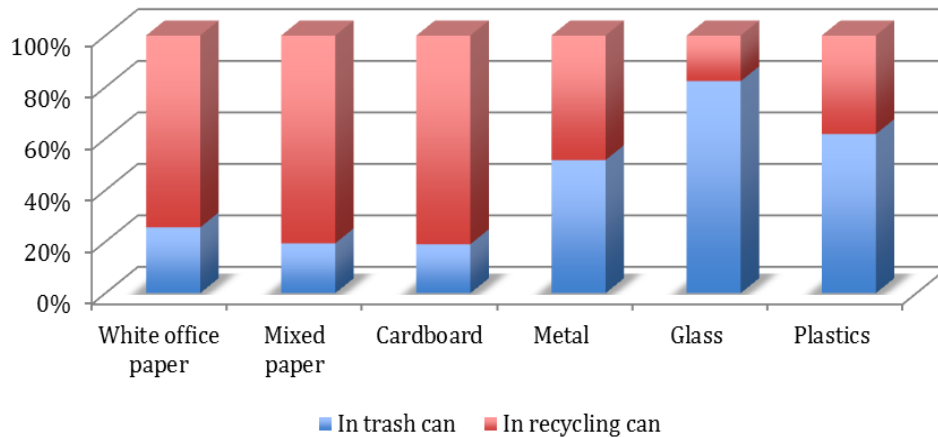
**Pre-Audit Waste Collected by Location and Receptacle**



- **1/5** of waste collected from housing was compostable
- A relationship was discovered between collected materials and location; **Trash** was prevalent in housing and food areas, whereas **recyclables** were found in classrooms
- **34%** of materials found in the trash, should have been recycled



## Recyclable Material by Receptacle



...This can be due to the fact that not everyone is reached by efforts to educate on recycling or the fact that areas on campus, such as classrooms, lack recycling receptacles. While the program is highly successful, GoG will need to focus on this issue more closely in the future.

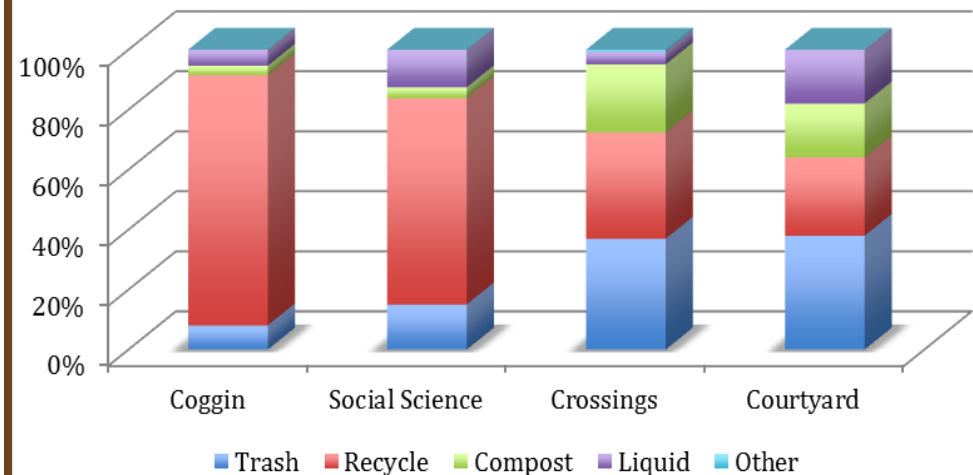
Trash only represented **19.2%**  
of total waste audited.

## Conclusion

Garbage on the Green provides critical insight into UNF's waste stream and highlights concerns that need attention. Physical Facilities has instituted an efficient recycling system; however 37% of recyclable materials still found their way into the trash...

**41.7%** of recycled materials were  
mixed and white office paper.

## Type of Waste by Location







# Acknowledgements

Garbage on the Green is held annually by the University of North Florida's Environmental Center.

Please see our formal Waste Audit Report for more detailed information on Garbage on the Green.

The Environmental Center would like to graciously acknowledge our community sponsors:

- The University of North Florida
- UNF Physical Facilities
- Republic Services
- Community exhibitors
- Student volunteers



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